

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

Main claim 3 has been amended to place it in better US form and to emphasize how the stirring means 10 is integrated into the cooker basket 5 and connected to the drive unit 12 mounted in the base 2, so that only in the lower position of the basket 5 is the stirrer driven to move the pasta about in the cooker. These amendments necessitated some revision of dependent claims 4 and 5 (the latter of which was found to contain allowable subject matter), since much of the subject matter of these claims was incorporated in amended claim 3.


The sole reference applied against this case, US 4,951,558 of Figliuzzi is a pasta cooker that can be equipped with an automatic basket lifter shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, or a stirrer shown in FIGS. 11 and 12. The two accessories cannot be used at the same time, since the stirrer would block lifting of the basket 14. Even if the stirrer were built tall enough to allow the basket to be lifted, which is nowhere suggested in this reference, the structure would not meet the language of amended claim 3 which has a coupling that is only effective in the lower position of the basket.

Since the structure defined in claim 3 is clearly different from that shown in Figliuzzi, no §102 rejection is possible. As nothing in Figliuzzi suggests a pasta cooker having a stirrer and automatic basket lifting both operable at the same time, no §103 rejection is possible either.

All of the claims are therefore allowable. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: None.